



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region



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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

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Notice of Public Workshop on the Development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Lower Salinas River Watershed, Monterey County, to Control the Discharge of Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon

Time and Location:

Date: January 13, 2010

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Location: Monterey County Water Resources Agency, 893 Blanco Circle, Salinas, CA 93901. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Larry Harlan at (805) 594-6195 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

PURPOSE

Central Coast Water Board staff (Water Board staff) will hold a stakeholder outreach and public workshop to discuss the development of TMDLs and Implementation Plans for the control of discharges of chlorpyrifos and diazinon to the waters referenced above. The TMDLs will allocate pollutant loading capacities and establish an implementation plan to control chlorpyrifos and diazinon discharges so that the receiving waters attain water quality objectives for aquatic life. The applicable water quality objectives for these TMDLs are:

Toxicity. All waters shall be maintained free of toxic substances in concentrations which are toxic to, or which produce detrimental physiological responses in, human, plant, animal, or aquatic life.

Pesticides. No individual pesticide or combination of pesticides shall reach concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses. There shall be no increase in pesticide concentrations found in bottom sediments or aquatic life.

BACKGROUND

The Lower Salinas River Watershed consists of the Salinas River valley floor downstream of Gonzalez Road to the dunes along the Monterey Bay, including watersheds draining to Moss Landing Harbor (South), Tembladero Slough, Espinosa Slough, Espinosa Lake, Blanco Drain, Salinas Reclamation Canal, Salinas River (Lower), Quail Creek, and Chualar Creek. These waterbodies are listed as impaired by chlorpyrifos and/or diazinon on the States' "List of Water Quality Limited Segments"

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(List) pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 303(d) because they exceed water quality objectives.

The Clean Water Act requires the State to develop TMDLs for waters on the list and State law requires development of implementation plans to achieve the TMDLs. Other impaired waterbodies that are not currently on the 303(d) list but are identified as not meeting water quality objectives include the Old Salinas River Estuary, Salinas River Lagoon (North), Alisal Slough, and Natividad Creek.

Water Board staff conducted investigations on the nature and causes of impairments, the legal standards that must be met in these waters, and potential strategies to reduce the amount of chlorpyrifos and diazinon discharged to these waters in order to achieve the applicable water quality objectives. Water Board staff concluded that irrigated agriculture and urban storm water are the significant sources of impairment. Water Board staff is proposing the following acute¹ and chronic² water column numeric targets for chlorpyrifos and diazinon in units of micrograms per liter (µg/L):

Pesticide	Acute (µg/L).	Chronic (µg/L).
Chlorpyrifos	0.025	0.015
Diazinon	0.16	0.10

To account for the additive toxicity of these two pesticides, Water Board staff is proposing that waste load allocations (WLA) for all NPDES-permitted dischargers, load allocations (LA) for nonpoint source discharges, and the loading capacity for impaired waterbodies shall not exceed the sum (S) of one (1) as defined below:

$$S = \frac{C_D}{NT_D} + \frac{C_C}{NT_C} \leq 1.0$$

Where

C_D = diazinon concentration in µg/L.

C_C = chlorpyrifos concentration in µg/L.

NT_D = acute or chronic diazinon numeric target in µg/L.

NT_C = acute or chronic chlorpyrifos numeric target in µg/L.

Water Board staff anticipates proposing the TMDLs and implementation plans to the Water Board for adoption in mid-2010. The TMDLs or implementation plans may require the installation of pollution control equipment or establish a performance standard or treatment requirement.

¹ Acute (1- hour average). Not to be exceeded more than once in a three year period.

² Chronic (4-day average). Not to be exceeded more than once in a three year period.

A Project Summary will be available on approximately December 21, 2009 at the Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdl/public_comment_participation.shtml.

The Project Summary will also be available by request at the office of the Central Coast Water Board; please contact Larry Harlan.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP CONDUCT AND SCHEDULE

This meeting and workshop will provide participants with: 1) an explanation and understanding of the TMDL project, 2) a summary of which waterbodies in the watershed are identified as impaired, 3) the sources of impairment, and 4) a summary of the proposed implementation plan and Basin Plan Amendment.

Please note this is an informal workshop for informational purposes only. This is not a formal scoping meeting pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.). Water Board staff will consider issues raised and comments provided, both on the scope and content of the TMDL project, and proposed implementation plan and Basin Plan Amendment. However, Water Board staff will not be following up with written or formal responses to individual comments received during the meeting.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions regarding the workshop or the TMDL project should be directed to Larry Harlan at (805) 594-6195 or lharlan@waterboards.ca.gov.

cc: Salinas River Watershed IPL

File: Salinas River Watershed Pesticides TMDLs